

New MOFD fire code on the books

By Nick Marnell

When the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors ratified the new Moraga-Orinda Fire District fire code Sept. 22, a nine-month process that included negotiations with district municipalities, and beset with COVID-19 delays, finally came to fruition.

As a result, MOFD enacted its Ordinance 20-10, a document that outlines the elements of a new fire code which as of Oct. 1 became the new law of the district.

“By adopting the new fire code, the district will be enforcing a code which is consistent with state regulations,”

Fire Marshal Jeff Isaacs said.

A highlight of the new code is the revised deadline for exterior hazard abatement, pushed up from June 15 to May 31. Moraga, Orinda and Lafayette now share the same compliance date for abatement requirements.

One of the most controversial features of the new code is the stipulation of an exterior fire hazard inspection as part of a real property transfer.

“Compliance with exterior abatement regulations has always been a requirement for a real property transfer,” Fire Chief Dave Winnacker said. “It’s only the reporting that’s new.” For ease of compliance with the

inspection requirement, the district set up an online portal for sellers to self-report, and for agents to check the status of a property.

The ordinance needed the ratification of not only the fire district, the town of Moraga and the city of Orinda but also the Board of Supervisors, under whose jurisdiction lie unincorporated areas within the district. The new fire code is a product of significant coordination among the above agencies to ensure all individual concerns were addressed.

“The new fire code being very progressive helps us protect our citizens and their property from fire,” Isaacs said. “We want our fire code

to focus on all aspects of fire safety.”

Isaacs noted that the new code supports the MOFD Wildfire Prevention Strategic Plan, a document that outlines district efforts to reduce the risk of a catastrophic wildfire. The plan covers internal and external fuels mitigation programs, wildfire

preplanning and evacuation planning, early detection and notification systems, fire code updates, and community outreach and education.

The entire fire code can be reviewed at the district website. Under the Our District tab, click on Ordinances & Resolutions.

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors
Wednesday, Oct. 21, 7 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.mofd.org

ConFire

Board of Directors
Tuesday, Nov. 10, 1:00 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org



ConFire officials warn against complacency as fire season winds down

By Nick Marnell

Wildfires have scorched more than 4 million acres in California this fire season, shattering records for the amount of burnt earth in a single year. It’s been a rough fire season locally as well, as vegetation

fires rose 63% over last year within the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District.

But thanks to a combination of efforts, including a high level of preparedness, aggressive mitigation activities and the awareness and contributions of residents, not one

of the 412 vegetation fires in the district through September charred more than 10 acres nor resulted in a fatality.

“People should realize it’s not for lack of fires that we’ve had good fortune here. Every one of those fires could have gotten away from us,” ConFire spokesman Steve Hill said.



ConFire crew puts out vegetation fire in June Photo courtesy ConFire

The Orinda Firewise Council says
VOTE
Like YOUR life depends on it!

MOFD BOARD
Craig Jorgens
Orinda
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The only MOFD supporters of the summer chipper program

YES ON R
SAFER ORINDA
Funds for Fire Prevention

Darlene Gee
Orinda City Council

The Orinda Firewise Council is a consortium of non-partisan leaders representing over 1400 homes in Orinda Firewise neighborhoods that have come together to support each other by sharing resources & to engage the City of Orinda and the Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) in wildfire prevention.
WWW.ORINDAFIREWISECOUNCIL.ORG
ad paid for by the Wildlife Safety Committee

“Just because we haven’t had a devastating wildfire here, we should not feel immune.”

Especially fortunate this year has been Lafayette, which experienced only one vegetation fire. Apparently the October 2019 Pleasant Fire, which destroyed the Lafayette Tennis Club and prompted the evacuation of thousands near Highway 24, got the attention of city residents.

“As we near the traditional height of the fire season here in Contra Costa County, it is obvious this has already been an exceptionally challenging one across the region and the western U.S.,” Fire Chief Lewis Broschard said. “Here at home we have had, thus far, good fortune in spite of a significant uptick in vegetation fires. We make our own luck, however, and the combined efforts of our fire agencies and our residents have helped protect us all.”

This is not the time to take anything for granted, Hill said, as the county is one red flag warning away from a major catastrophe.

“There is more unburnt fuel on the ground in the county than in any recent year,” Deputy Fire Chief Aaron McAlister said. “The moisture levels of that fuel are historically low. With a combination of high temperatures, low humidity and strong winds, we are at tremendous risk for a devastating wildfire.”

Broschard doubled down on the need for citizen awareness. “We can’t do it alone and so we are counting on every resident’s continued vigilance to help see us through what can still be a very dangerous remaining few weeks of fire season 2020,” he said.

On that note, the district Fire Prevention Bureau is helping neighborhoods organize the first Lafayette Firewise Community.

Public Safety

Emergency response:
Emergency: 24 Hours 911
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours 925-284-5010
Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or go to www.nixle.com
Lafayette Police Department:
3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd. 925-283-3680
Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt 925-299-3221
Police Department Tip Line 94549Tip@gmail.com
Police Department Traffic Issues 94549Traffic@gmail.com
Moraga Police Department:
329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055
Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049
Orinda Police Department:
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820
Chief of Police, David M. Cook 925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org



Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report Sept. 20 - Oct. 3

Alarms	51
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	12
Traffic	117
Suspicious Circumstances	10
Suspicious Subject	15
Suspicious Vehicle	16
Service to Citizen	41
Patrol Req./Security Check	47
Public/School Assembly Check	0
Supplemental Report	13
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	13
Ordinance Violation	1

Vehicle violations

Auto Burglary	50
50 Block Lafayette Cir.	800
800 Block Bell St.	900
900 Block Hough Ave. (2)	3100
3100 Block Stanley Blvd.	Exhibition Of Speed
Old Tunnel Rd./Windsor Dr.	

Hit And Run Misdemeanor
Police Department
900 Block Hough Ave. (2)
30 Block Lafayette Cir.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3100 Block Old Tunnel Rd.

Reckless Driving
Brown Ave./Deer Hill Rd.
Moraga Rd./Brook St.
1300 Block Reliez Valley Rd.
Carol Ln./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Hope Ln./St Marys Rd.
Village Center/Sundale Rd.
15t St./Deer Hill Rd.

Tc - Property Damage
3800 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Tanglewood Dr./Moraga Rd. (2)

Vehicle Theft
3600 Block Walnut St.

Other criminal activity
Fraud False Pretenses
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
400 Block Helen Ave.
1200 Block Panorama Dr.

Grand Theft
20 Block Ruth Ct.
800 Block Rosedale Ave.

Identity Theft
Police Department
700 Block Los Palos Dr.

Misc Burglary
3400 Block Hamlin Rd.
3100 Block Stanley Blvd.

Petty Theft
1000 Block Carol Ln.
3200 Block Ameno Dr.
3700 Block St Francis Dr.

Robbery Armed
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Shoplift
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)

Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
Bacon Ct./Bacon Way
Disturbance-fight
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Disturbing The Peace
Buchan Dr./Old Tunnel Rd.
Old Tunnel Rd./El Curtola Blvd.

Loud Noise
1000 Block N Thompson Rd.
Golden Gate Way/Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Frankie Ln./Frankie Ln.
1700 Block Toyon Rd.

900 Block Hough Ave.
20 Block Cosso Ct.
3300 Block Springhill Rd.
Oliver Ct./Moraga Rd.

Loud Party
Rowe Pl./Moraga Rd.
3500 Block Oliver Ct.

Phone Harass
40 Block Prado Way

Public Nuisance
3400 Block Golden Gate Way
Golden Gate Way/2Nd St.
2Nd St./Golden Gate Way
Pleasant Hill Rd./Stanley Blvd.

Vandalism
Police Department
10 Block Hidden Valley Rd.

Other
Animal Cruelty
Noahs New York Bagels
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

H&S Violation
900 Block Hough Ave.
K9 Outside Assist Request
Eb 80/Gilman

Mentally Ill Violent
700 Block Silver Crest Ct.

Trespass
Old Tunnel Rd./Leland Dr.
3600 Block Bickerstaff St.
3400 Block School St.

Violation Custody Order
1200 Block Warner Ct.

Violation Restraining Order
900 Block Hough Ave.

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report Sept. 22 - Oct. 5

Alarms	6
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	7
Traffic	19
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subject	5
Suspicious Vehicle	4
Service to Citizen	48
Patrol Req./Security Check	16
Supplemental Report	9
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	4
Ordinance Violation	1



Vehicle violations
Accident Injury
Canyon Rd./Camino Pablo
Excessive Speed
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd. (2)
Moraga Way/Miramonte Dr.
Donald Dr./Moraga Rd.
Lucas Dr./Moraga Rd.
Quarter Dr./Moraga Way Ln.
Moraga Rd./Woodford Dr.
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr. (4)
Camino Pablo/Oxford Dr.
Moraga Rd./Moraga Way
Moraga Way/Moraga Valley Ln. (2)

Hit And Run Misdemeanor
2000 Block Ascot Dr.

Reckless Driving
Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr.
Moraga Rd./Moraga Way

Tc - No Details
Corliss Dr./Moraga Rd.

Tc - Property Damage
Moraga Commons Park

Other criminal activity
Forgery
1200 Block Rimer Dr.

Panhandling
Wells Fargo

Petty Theft
100 Block Shuey Dr.
100 Block Brookline

Residential Burglary
30 Block Sherwood Ct.

Warrant Arrest
Ivy Dr./Moraga Way

Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
Not Available
Disturbing The Peace
10 Block Camelford Ct.

Drunk In Public
10 Block Moraga Valley Ln.

Loud Music
Canyon Club Brewery (2)
100 Block Ascot Ct.

Loud Noise
Not Available
Donald Dr./Laird Dr.

Loud Party
80 Block Miramonte Dr.

Other
Fireworks
Moraga Rd./Canyon Rd.
Camino Pablo/Tharp Dr.
Mentally Ill Commit
300 Block Rheem Blvd.

Public Assembly Check
Los Perales Elementary School
Rheem Valley Shopping Center
Safeway

Violation Dom Viol Order
50 Block Miramonte Dr.



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report Oct. 4 - Oct. 10

Alarms	16
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	7
Traffic	22
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subject	3
Suspicious Vehicle	7
Service to Citizen	21
Patrol Req./Security Check	24
Public/School Assembly Check	3
Supplemental Report	4
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	4
Ordinance Violation	4

Vehicle violations

Reckless Driving	St Stephens Dr./Wb Sr 24
St Stephens Dr./Wb Sr 24	Glorietta Blvd./Moraga Way

Other criminal activity

Burglary	400 Block Camino Sobrante
Grand Theft	100 Block Canon Dr.
Panhandling	Safeway
Safeway	Post Office
Residential Burglary	30 Block Marston Rd.

Nuisance to the Community

Disturbance-domestic	La Espiral/Las Vegas Rd.
La Espiral/Las Vegas Rd.	Loud Noise
Loud Noise	80 Block Brookwood Rd.
80 Block Brookwood Rd.	Public Nuisance
Public Nuisance	20 Block Bryant Way
20 Block Bryant Way	Vandalism
Vandalism	40 Block Ivy Dr.